

2015-J1279

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Dave Possinger upon the occasion of his induction into the SUNY Sullivan Athletics Hall of Fame on March 14, 2015

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Dave Possinger upon the occasion of his induction into the SUNY Sullivan Athletics Hall of Fame celebrated on Saturday, March 14, 2015, his birthday, in Loch Sheldrake, New York;

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion also featured the 20-year Reunion of the 1995 National Championship Team coached by Dave Possinger, with many members of his 1992 National Championship Team in attendance; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Sullivan's strong athletic program is a point of pride at the college and reflects its commitment to sportsmanship, academics, and the positive growth of student athletes in its community; and

WHEREAS, A strong contributor to the success of SUNY Sullivan athletics and a lifelong devotee of the game of basketball, Dave Possinger earned his bachelor's degree from Towson State University, and completed his master's degree at Morgan State University; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious career as coach, Dave Possinger compiled an impressive record of 500-118, while having a positive effect on the lives of the young men under his tutelage; and

WHEREAS, As coach of the St. Thomas Aquinas College Men's Basketball Team during the 1980s, Dave Possinger accumulated the most wins of any coach at a four-year program in the decade; he also recorded seven straight 30-win seasons and District 21 titles; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man achieved even greater success after joining the SUNY Sullivan Generals basketball program, winning two national championships in 1992 and 1995, while compiling an astounding record of 133-5 over four years; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dave Possinger's teams put together a 68-game undefeated winning streak, and were ranked number one in the nation four times during his tenure as head coach at SUNY Sullivan; and

WHEREAS, A two-time Coach of the Year honoree, Dave Possinger continued his coaching career at Western Carolina University, Rhode Island College, and Northern Montana College; following his retirement, he served as an assistant coach with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and as a basketball skills specialist coach; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Dave Possinger has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of SUNY Sullivan Athletics; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Dave Possinger upon the occasion of his induction into the SUNY Sullivan Athletics Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Dave Possinger.